

TITLE

INSECT REPELLENT COMPOUND

ABSTRACT

5 Dihydronepetalactone, a minor natural constituent of the essential
oil of catmints (*Nepeta* spp.) such as *Nepeta cataria*, has been identified
as an effective insect repellent compound. Synthesis of
dihydronepetalactone may be achieved by hydrogenation of
nepetalactone, the major constituent of catmint essential oils. This
10 compound, which also has fragrance properties, may be used
commercially for its insect repellent properties.